

**Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Water Protection Program**

**Bacteria  
Total Maximum Daily Load  
Implementation Plan**

**For**

**Watkins Creek  
Water Body ID No. 1708  
St. Louis County**

**DRAFT**

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## Water Body Summary – Watkins Creek

### Pollutant: *Escherichia coli*

**Stream Name:**

Watkins Creek

**Location:**

St. Louis County and St. Louis City, Mo.

**Nearby City:**

St. Louis

**12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) and Name:**

07140101-0401Maline Creek-Mississippi River

**Water Body Identification Number (WBID)  
and Hydrologic Class:<sup>1</sup>**

WBID 1708 – Class C

**Designated Uses:<sup>2</sup>**

Livestock and wildlife protection (LWP)

Protection of warm water habitat (WWH)

Human health protection (HHP)

Whole body contact recreation category B (WBC-B)

**Use that is Impaired:**

Whole body contact recreation category B (WBC-B)

**Length and Location of Impaired Segment:<sup>3</sup>**

1.4 miles, from mouth to Highway 270

**Universal Transverse Mercator [Zone 15 north] coordinates:**

E: 744075, N: 4294780 to E: 745360, N: 4295442

**Pollutant on 2012 303(d) List:**

Bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, or *E. coli*)



<sup>1</sup> For hydrologic classes see 10 CSR 20-7.031(1)(F). Class P streams maintain flow during drought conditions. Class C streams may cease flow during dry periods, but maintain permanent pools that support aquatic life. Class E streams have ephemeral surface flow.

<sup>2</sup> For designated beneficial uses see 10 CSR 20-7.031(1)(C) and 10 CSR 20-7.031 Table H.

<sup>3</sup> The water body segment length was revised in 10 CSR 20-7.031 Table H, effective October 2009. This revision reflects a more accurate measurement of length. The location and the starting and ending points of this segment have not changed. This length differs from what is presented on the 2012 303(d) list of impaired waters.

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## 1. Introduction

This document serves as the Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, implementation plan for the Watkins Creek watershed in St. Louis County. This implementation plan addresses the Watkins Creek bacteria impairment to whole body contact recreation using the *E. coli* targets established in the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources developed the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL and initially made it available for public comment from June 1, 2012 through July 16, 2012. Following revisions to the TMDL, a second public comment period was held from May 23, 2014 through Aug. 21, 2014. Although separate, this implementation plan serves as a companion to the TMDL and references figures, tables and information found in the TMDL document. While the TMDL establishes the maximum bacteria loading Watkins Creek can assimilate and still meet water quality standards, this implementation plan provides information regarding best management practices (BMPs), potential participants in the watershed, and calculations of pollutant reductions in order to guide implementation activities and eventually restore Watkins Creek to an unimpaired condition. The ultimate goal of the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL and this implementation plan is to achieve water quality standards in Watkins Creek through full attainment of the whole body contact category B criterion. The bacteria TMDL for Watkins Creek is available from the department's website at [dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/tmdl/1708-watkins-cr-record.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/tmdl/1708-watkins-cr-record.htm). The loads and allocations established in the TMDL are subject to change pending approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Questions regarding this or other TMDLs may be submitted to the department by email to [tmdl@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:tmdl@dnr.mo.gov) or by calling the department's Water Protection Program at 800-361-4827.

States are not required to develop TMDL implementation plans and EPA does not approve or disapprove them. However, the department recognizes that technical guidance and support are critical to achieving the goals of the TMDL. The purpose of this implementation plan is to serve as a guide to local professionals, watershed managers, and citizen groups who may be developing watershed based plans or actively implementing BMPs in the Watkins Creek watershed or any greater watershed for which the Watkins Creek watershed is a part. Progress toward meeting water quality standards in Watkins Creek is expected to be long-term and will primarily be a continuation of current, ongoing or legally required activities, such as the consent decree established as part of the *United States of America and the State of Missouri, and Missouri Coalition for the Environment Foundation v. Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District*, No. 4:07-CV-1120.<sup>4</sup> It is not the department's intent with this implementation plan to impose any additional activities beyond those already undertaken to satisfy existing regulations or legal requirements. Any known management practices or watershed plans already in place or under development that will aid in meeting the goals established in the TMDL are referenced in this plan in order to facilitate these efforts without duplicating the work.

This TMDL implementation plan will incorporate many of EPA's nine elements for a successful watershed plan, where appropriate (EPA 2008).<sup>5</sup> Appendix A summarizes where and how these nine elements are addressed in this plan, but additional detail may be necessary when developing

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<sup>4</sup> Although an original party to the lawsuit, the department was not a part to the final consent decree. The consent decree was lodged with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri on Aug. 4, 2011 and approved on April 27, 2012. The text of the consent decree is available online at [www.epa.gov/region7/enforcement\\_compliance/MSD\\_consent\\_decree\\_cwa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region7/enforcement_compliance/MSD_consent_decree_cwa.htm)

<sup>5</sup> These nine elements are also referred to as the "nine minimum elements to be included in a watershed plan for impaired waters funded using incremental section 319 funds."

a watershed-based plan funded through grants from the department's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Program. This implementation plan may also be revised should there be significant changes to watershed conditions or pollutant sources. TMDL implementation uses an iterative adaptive management process that makes progress toward achieving water quality goals while using any new data and information to reduce uncertainty and adjust implementation activities. However, final approved TMDL loading targets are not expected to change except in rare instances in which TMDLs may be revised, such as a change in designated uses or water quality criteria.

In addition to bacteria, Watkins Creek is also on Missouri's 2012 303(d) List of impaired waters as impaired by chloride and pH. Separate TMDLs will be developed to address these pollutants and are currently scheduled for completion in 2017. The most current TMDL schedule can be found on the department's website at [dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/tmdl/wpc-tmdl-progress.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/tmdl/wpc-tmdl-progress.htm). Although this implementation plan does not directly address the chloride or pH impairments, the BMPs and abatement methods recommended, in some instances, may also address these other pollutants. Furthermore, groups or individuals using this TMDL implementation plan as guidance for developing a watershed management plan are encouraged to address other pollutants that may be negatively affecting water quality in the Watkins Creek watershed. Development of additional TMDLs in the Watkins Creek watershed will require revisions or replacement of this implementation plan to incorporate new TMDL targets.

## **2. Stream and Watershed Characteristics**

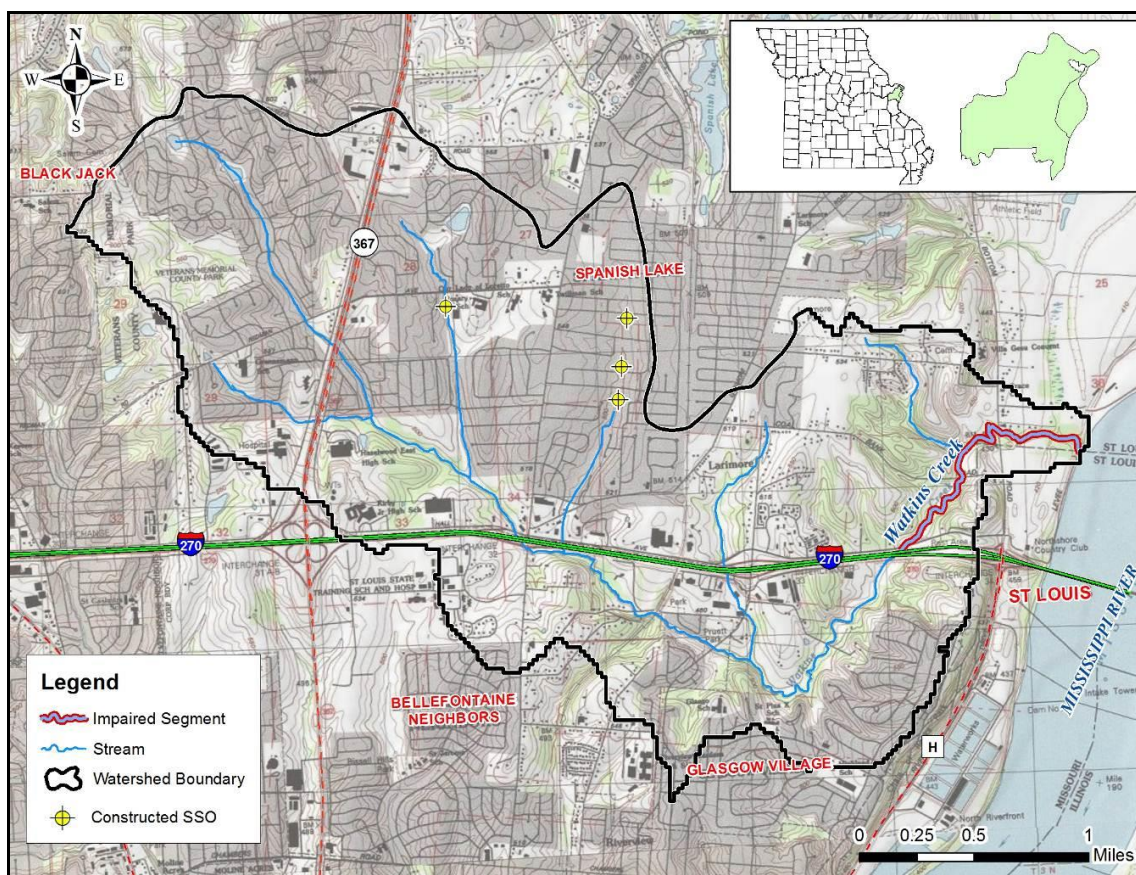
A detailed discussion pertaining to the geology, physiography, soils, climate and land use in the Watkins Creek watershed is provided in Section 2 of the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL. Information pertinent for implementation of BMPs and pollutant abatement are presented here for convenience, but developers of a nine-element watershed based plan or a stormwater management plan should consult the full TMDL document for additional information. Because the bacteria impairment of Watkins Creek is suspected to be primarily due to stormwater runoff, factors potentially influencing runoff in the watershed are presented in this section. Figure 1 shows the extent of the Watkins Creek watershed and its location in St. Louis County.

Watkins Creek is an urban stream located in eastern Missouri in northeastern St. Louis County. The lowermost 1.4 miles of stream is identified in Missouri's Use Designation Dataset as water body identification number, or WBID, 1708.<sup>6</sup> The Watkins Creek watershed drains approximately 6.5 square miles and includes portions of the municipalities of Black Jack, Bellefontaine Neighbors, Spanish Lake and Glasgow Village. Annual rainfall in the watershed is estimated to be about 41 inches based upon 30-year averages from the St. Louis International Airport and St. Louis Science Center weather stations, both of which are located less than 10 miles away from the Watkins Creek watershed. Precipitation is an important factor related to stream flow and stormwater runoff events that can influence certain pollutant sources, such as bacteria.

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<sup>6</sup> The Missouri Use Designation Dataset documents the names and locations of the state's rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs, which have been assigned designated uses. See 10 CSR 20.7031 (1)(P).





**Figure 1.** Location of the Watkins Creek watershed in St. Louis County, Missouri<sup>7</sup>

Soils in the watershed are varied, but can be grouped based on similar characteristics such as their runoff potential. The hydrologic soil groups developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service provide information on the potential for runoff to occur on saturated soils. Stormwater runoff may carry contaminants, such as *E. coli*, to nearby streams, therefore identifying areas with a greater potential for producing runoff will aid TMDL implementation. Figure 2 shows the locations of various hydrologic soil groupings in the Watkins Creek watershed and their runoff potential. In addition to these soil characteristics, the amount of impermeable surfaces associated with urbanized areas may also increase the potential for stormwater runoff by reducing the ability of rainwater to infiltrate the soil.

<sup>7</sup> Constructed SSO = constructed sanitary sewer overflows



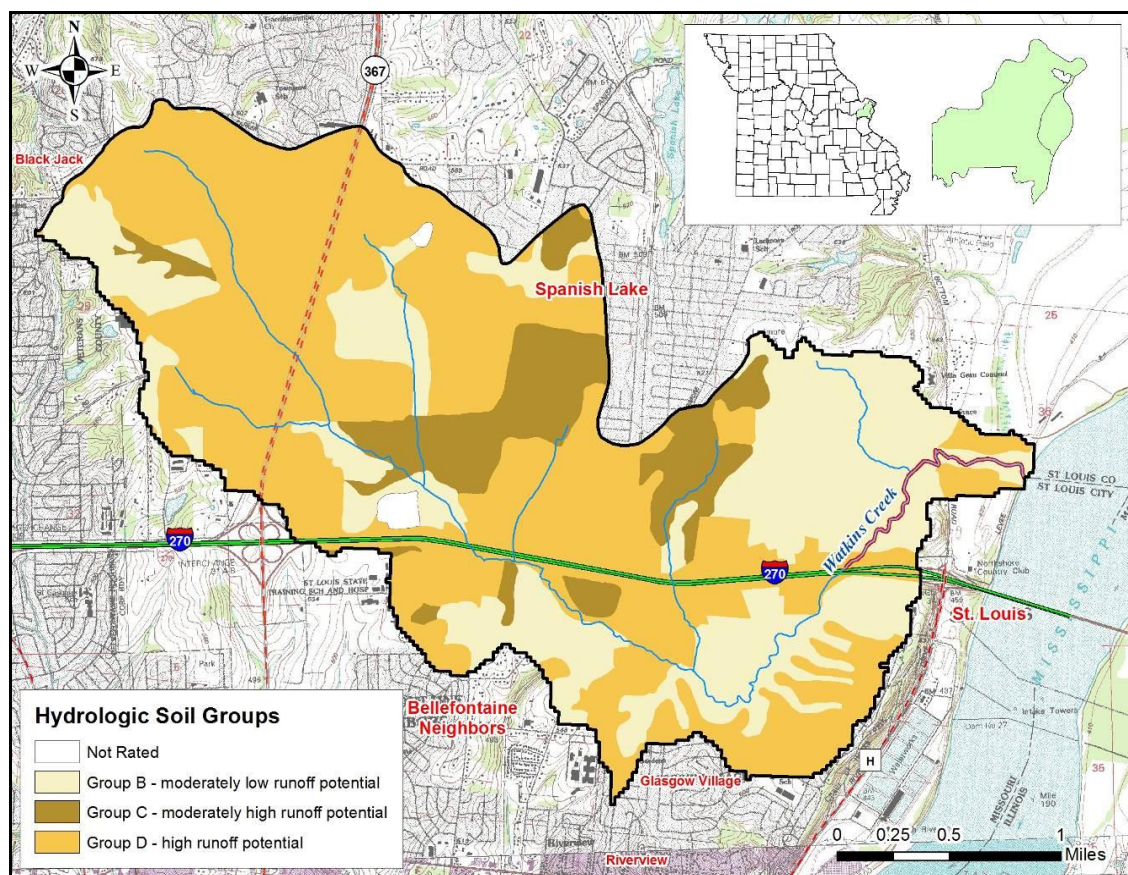
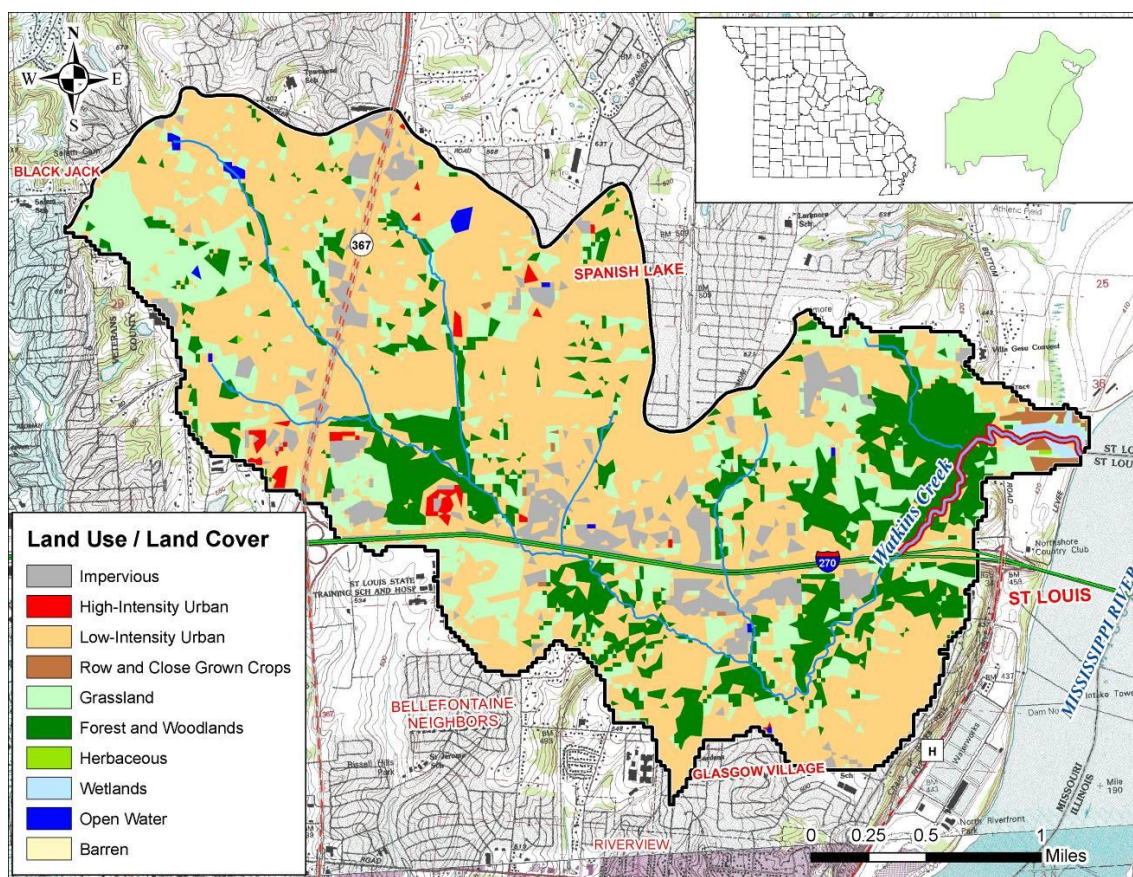


Figure 2. Hydrologic soil groups in the Watkins Creek watershed<sup>8</sup>

Impervious areas within the Watkins Creek watershed are common due to the watershed's urban nature. Land use in the Watkins Creek watershed is primarily urban with over 63 percent of the area categorized as an urban or impervious land use type; the majority of this is classified as low-intensity urban, which is primarily residential (Figure 3). Nearly half, 49.7 percent, of the riparian corridor lies within areas categorized as urban and impervious. Although the land use dataset categorizes specific areas as being impervious, impervious areas exist in all urban land use categories due to the presence of roads, sidewalks, parking lots, driveways, and rooftops. The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, which is a public agency responsible for management of wastewater and some stormwater in the watershed, estimates the total imperviousness of the watershed to be approximately 23 percent (John R. Lodderhose, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, email communication, Oct. 24, 2012). This amount of imperviousness in the watershed is significant, as stream degradation associated with imperviousness has been shown to first occur at about 10 percent imperviousness and to increase in severity as imperviousness increases (Arnold and Gibbons 1996; Schueler 1994).

<sup>8</sup> In the Watkins Creek watershed, areas not rated in a hydrologic soil group are classified as being either water or as soils being comprised of 90 percent urban land (NRCS 2010).



**Figure 3.** Land use in the Watkins Creek watershed<sup>9</sup>

The population of the Watkins Creek watershed, using 2010 census data, is estimated to be approximately 17,040 (U.S. Census Bureau 2010). The larger Maline Creek-Mississippi River watershed<sup>10</sup>, of which the Watkins Creek watershed is a part, is considered by EPA to be an Environmental Justice watershed (Steve Schaff, EPA, e-mail communication, June 30, 2011).<sup>11</sup> Environmental Justice communities may qualify for financial and strategic assistance for addressing environmental and public health issues (EPA 2011a). Funding opportunities are discussed in more detail in Section 12 of this document.

### 3. Designated Uses and Applicable Water Quality Criteria

Designated uses are the uses for a water body identified in the State's water quality standards that must be maintained in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act. The following designated uses have been assigned to Watkins Creek:

- Livestock and wildlife protection (LWP)
- Protection of warm water habitat (WWH)

<sup>9</sup> Due to the urban nature of the watershed, areas categorized as grassland, which account for 18 percent of the watershed area, may include golf courses, cemeteries, parks, and school playgrounds.

<sup>10</sup> The 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code, or HUC, for the Maline Creek-Mississippi River watershed is 071401010401.

<sup>11</sup> EPA defines Environmental Justice as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.



- Human health protection (HHP)
- Whole body contact recreation category B (WBC-B)

The use impaired by bacteria in this stream is the protection of whole body contact recreation category B. Whole body contact recreation includes activities in which there is direct human contact with surface water that results in complete body submergence, thereby allowing accidental ingestion of the water as well as direct contact to sensitive body organs, such as the eyes, ears and nose. Category A waters include those that have been established as public swimming areas and waters with documented existing whole body contact recreational uses by the public. Category B applies to waters designated for whole body contact recreation, but are not contained within category A.

In Missouri's Water Quality Standards at 10 CSR 20-7.031(5)(C), specific numeric criteria are given for the protection of the whole body contact recreation use. Water quality criteria are limits on certain chemicals or conditions in a water body to protect particular designated uses. The state's Water Quality Standards dictate that for category B waters, *E. coli* counts, measured as a geometric mean, shall not exceed 206 counts per 100 milliliters of water (206/100mL) during the recreational season.<sup>12</sup> Missouri's recreational season is defined as being from April 1 to October 31.

#### 4. Review of TMDL Development

The public notice of the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL was issued on June 1, 2012 and comments from the public were accepted for 45 days ending on July 16, 2012. Comments were received from 14 groups or individuals and the TMDL document was revised where necessary. A public meeting to discuss the TMDL was held on Sept. 12, 2012 at the Daniel Boone Branch of the St. Louis County Library. The revised TMDL document and the comments received are available online at [dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/tmdl/1708-watkins-cr-record.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/tmdl/1708-watkins-cr-record.htm).

For Watkins Creek, the bacteria TMDL is expressed as *E. coli* counts per day using a load duration curve. A load duration curve is useful in identifying and differentiating between storm-driven and steady-input sources. The load duration approach can be used to provide a visual representation of stream flow conditions under which bacteria criteria exceedances have occurred, to assess critical conditions and to quantify the level of reduction necessary to meet the surface water quality targets for bacteria in the stream (Cleland 2002; Cleland 2003).

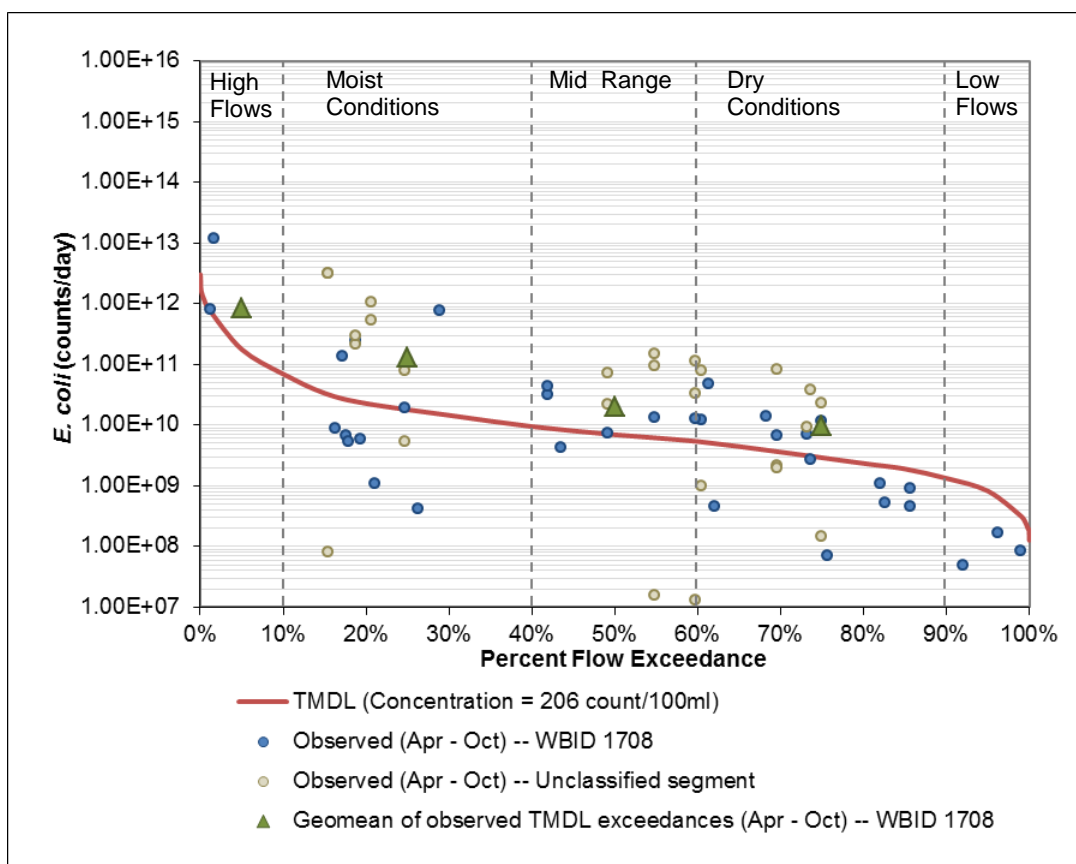
To develop the load duration curve, the targeted bacteria concentration of 206/100mL was multiplied by the average flow for a given day and a conversion factor to generate the allowable load over a range of flows. Figure 3 is the bacteria TMDL load duration curve calculated for Watkins Creek. The y-axis describes bacteria loading as counts per day, which are plotted against flow duration intervals on the x-axis, which represent the frequency for which a particular flow is met or exceeded. The load duration curve represents the maximum allowable bacteria load that will still meet water quality standards as a solid curve over the range of flows. Bacteria measurements collected from the impaired segment during the recreational season are

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<sup>12</sup> To assess a water body against the whole body contact bacteria criteria, Missouri's listing methodology document requires a minimum of five (5) samples (available online at [dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/waterquality/303d.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/waterquality/303d.htm)).

plotted as blue points. Geometric means of the bacteria data from WBID 1708 that are exceeding the TMDL curve are plotted as green triangles within each specific flow condition (i.e., high flows, etc.). Data collected upstream of the impaired segment of Watkins Creek are plotted as gray points and are presented for informational purposes. The flow conditions presented in Figure 3 illustrate general base-flow and surface-runoff conditions consistent with EPA guidance on using load duration curves for TMDL development (EPA 2007). Only the most recent 5 years of available bacteria data were used for TMDL development, as these data are the most likely to represent current conditions.

As can be seen in Figure 4, known exceedances of the allowable load occur at flows above those categorized as low flows. These observations indicate that the sources of bacteria in the Watkins Creek watershed are most likely those associated with precipitation events that vary in intensity as opposed to a steady-input source, such as discharge from a wastewater treatment plant.



**Figure 4.** Watkins Creek TMDL load duration curve

## 5. TMDL Source Assessment Summary

The Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL provides a more comprehensive inventory and assessment of known or suspected sources of bacteria in the watershed than what is presented here. This document presents those sources identified by the TMDL as being likely contributors to the impaired condition and those sources where implementation activities should be focused in order to meet the goals established by the TMDL with the greatest efficiency. However, those

employing BMPs in the watershed should not be discouraged from addressing additional pollutant sources not identified here. Sources of bacteria are categorized as being either regulated point sources or unregulated nonpoint sources. In the Watkins Creek watershed, potential sources are those that are most likely to be contributing bacteria during runoff events as is evident by the existing loading presented in Figure 4.

## **5.1 Point Sources**

Point sources are defined under Section 502(14) of the federal Clean Water Act and are typically regulated through the Missouri State Operating Permit program.<sup>13</sup> They include any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, such as a pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel or conduit, by which pollutants are transported to a water body. Two significant point source contributors of bacteria were identified in the Watkins Creek TMDL; sanitary sewer overflows and urban runoff regulated through Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, or MS4, permitting.

### **5.1.1 Sanitary Sewer Overflows**

Sanitary sewer systems are designed to carry household waste, which includes both greywater and sewage to a wastewater treatment facility. In the Watkins Creek watershed, this system carries waste to the Bissell Point wastewater treatment facility located about 5.5 miles south of the watershed. Although the treatment facility is located outside the watershed and discharges its wastewater into another stream, the presence of the sewerage system infrastructure within the Watkins Creek watershed is still a potential source of bacteria due to possible overflows. Sanitary sewer overflows are untreated or partially treated sewage releases from a sanitary sewer system. Overflows can be caused by a variety of reasons including blockages, line breaks, sewer defects, lapses in sewer system operation and maintenance, inadequate sewer design and construction, power failures and vandalism. Sanitary sewer overflows can occur during either dry or wet weather and at any point in the collection system, and include overflows from manholes. Sanitary sewer overflows are unpermitted and are not authorized by the federal Clean Water Act. Occurrences of sanitary sewer overflow outfalls can result in periods of elevated bacteria concentrations. The department does not have any data regarding specific occurrences of dry weather sanitary sewer overflows in the Watkins Creek watershed (Paul Morris, Missouri Department of Natural Resources St. Louis Regional Office, e-mail communication, June 7, 2011). However, four constructed sanitary sewer overflows, installed to relieve the sanitary sewers from excess flow caused by inflow and infiltration of stormwater during high rain events, are located within the watershed (John R. Lodderhose, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, e-mail communication, June 10, 2011 and Oct. 24, 2012).

### **5.1.2 MS4 Regulated Urban Runoff**

In addition to sanitary sewer inputs, urban runoff has also been found to carry high levels of bacteria and can be expected to exceed water quality criteria for bacteria during and immediately after storm events in most streams throughout the country (EPA 1983). In the case of Watkins Creek, MS4 permits regulate pollutant contributions from urban stormwater discharges throughout the entire watershed area. For this reason and for purposes of assigning TMDL

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<sup>13</sup> The Missouri State Operating system is Missouri's program for administering the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The NPDES program requires all point sources that discharge pollutants to waters of the United States to obtain a permit.

allocations, urban runoff is considered a regulated point source. Entities regulated by MS4 permits in the Watkins Creek watershed include the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and its co-permittees, which in the Watkins Creek watershed include St. Louis County and the municipalities of Black Jack and Bellefontaine Neighbors. Although the TMDL considers urban runoff in the Watkins Creek watershed to be a regulated point source, due to the diffuse nature of urban runoff prior to entering a storm sewer system, implementation efforts should address urban runoff as a nonpoint source and BMPs would consist of those typically used to control or reduce runoff events.

## **5.2 Nonpoint Sources**

Nonpoint source pollution refers to pollution coming from diffuse, nonpermitted sources that typically cannot be identified as entering a water body at a single location. They include all other categories of pollution not classified as being from a point source, and are exempt from department permit regulations as per state rules at 10 CSR 20-6.010(1)(B)1. These sources involve stormwater runoff from non-regulated areas and are minor or negligible under low-flow conditions. In the Watkins Creek watershed most stormwater runoff originates from urban areas that, as previously noted, is regulated under MS4 permits and is considered a point source for the purposes of the TMDL. Other potential sources of bacteria identified in the TMDL as being nonpoint sources are onsite wastewater treatment systems.

### **5.2.1 Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems**

Failing onsite wastewater treatment systems are known sources of bacteria, which can reach nearby streams through surface runoff and groundwater flows, thereby contributing bacteria loads under either wet or dry weather conditions. They may contribute bacteria loads either directly or as a component of MS4-permitted stormwater. EPA's Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Load, or STEPL, website estimates the failure rate of onsite wastewater treatment systems in St. Louis County as being 39 percent based upon 1990s census data (EPA 2011b). A more recent study conducted by the Electric Power Research Institute suggests that up to 50 percent of onsite wastewater treatment systems in Missouri may be failing (EPA 2011c; EPRI 2000).

The exact number of onsite wastewater treatment systems in the Watkins Creek watershed is unknown; however, such systems built prior to the sewerage systems serviced by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District are known to exist in the older developed areas of St. Louis County (Jack Fischer, St. Louis County Public Works, personal communication, June 6, 2011). Although septic system installations and repairs within St. Louis County require a permit, the county database cannot distinguish between work pertaining to onsite wastewater treatment systems and work pertaining to sanitary sewers because they are classified the same (Jack Fischer, St. Louis County Public Works, personal communication, Jan. 31, 2011). The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District maintains parcel and billing information that can be used to estimate the number of parcels in the watershed without a sewer connection. The majority of parcels in the watershed, approximately 89 percent, do have a sewer connection. Nonsewered or suspected nonsewered parcels in the watershed may include parcels with houses or other structures on them, or may include, parcels comprised entirely of green space. These parcels may potentially have onsite wastewater systems on them. The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District confirms that about 3.6 percent of the parcels in the Watkins Creek watershed, approximately

197 parcels, are not connected to a sewer. However, it is not known if any onsite systems exist on these parcels. An additional 7 percent of the parcels in the watershed, approximately 376 parcels, are suspected of not having a sewer connection (Kristol Whatley, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, email communication, July 16, 2012).

Much of the Watkins Creek watershed is serviced by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's Bissell Point wastewater treatment plant located about 5.5 miles south of Watkins Creek. Due to the availability of this sewer system and a St. Louis County ordinance requiring that a sewer connection to a building be made when a sanitary sewer line is within 200 feet of the property, many septic system eliminations have likely been made. Despite a lack of specific data showing that onsite wastewater treatment systems are a significant problem in the Watkins Creek watershed, the number of nonsewered or suspected nonsewered parcels in the watershed, combined with the available failure rate data, suggests that onsite wastewater treatment systems are present in the watershed and that these systems are potential contributors of bacteria to Watkins Creek.

## 6. TMDL Allocations

A TMDL is a calculation of a water body's loading capacity for a particular pollutant. Loading capacity is the maximum pollutant load that a water body can assimilate and still attain water quality standards. It is equal to the sum of the wasteload allocation, load allocation and the margin of safety, and can be expressed as the equation:

$$\text{TMDL} = \text{LC} = \sum \text{WLA} + \sum \text{LA} + \text{MOS}$$

where LC is the loading capacity,  $\sum \text{WLA}$  is the sum of the wasteload allocations,  $\sum \text{LA}$  is the sum of the load allocations, and MOS is the margin of safety. The wasteload allocation is the fraction of the total pollutant load apportioned to point sources. The load allocation is the fraction of the total pollutant load apportioned to nonpoint sources. The margin of safety is a percentage of the TMDL that accounts for any uncertainty associated with the model assumptions as well as any data inadequacies.

The TMDL establishes pollutant allocations for the sources identified as contributing to the stream's impairment that, if met, will result in attainment of the state's water quality standards. Bacteria allocations for Watkins Creek over a range of flows are presented in Table 1. The TMDL and flow values in the table correspond to the load duration curve presented in Figure 4.

**Table 1.** *E. coli* allocations in the Watkins Creek watershed over a range of flow conditions \*

Percent Flow	Flow (cfs)	Targets Based on concentration of 206/100mL				
		TMDL (counts/day)	MS4 WLA (counts/day)	SSO WLA (counts/day)	LA (counts/day)	MOS (counts/day)
90	0.3	1.33E+09	1.19E+09	0	0	1.33E+08
75	0.6	2.97E+09	2.67E+09	0	0	2.97E+08
50	1.4	6.95E+09	6.26E+09	0	0	6.95E+08
25	3.6	1.83E+10	1.65E+10	0	0	1.83E+09
10	13.8	6.95E+10	6.26E+10	0	0	6.95E+09

\* cfs = cubic feet per second; SSO = sanitary sewer overflow (includes constructed overflows)



In the Watkins Creek watershed, there are no permitted point source facilities discharging municipal or domestic wastewater. For this reason, the most likely bacteria inputs into the stream are onsite wastewater treatment systems, sanitary sewer overflows, and stormwater runoff. The allocations of allowable bacteria loading to those sources are presented in Table 1. Properly functioning onsite systems should not be contributing bacteria loads to Watkins Creek and discharges from these systems are not allowed by law. Therefore, this nonpoint source is given a load allocation (LA) of zero at all flows. Likewise, sanitary sewer overflows are not permitted by the department and are not authorized by the Clean Water Act. For this reason, this bacteria point source is given a wasteload allocation (SSO WLA) of zero at all flows. Stormwater runoff remains the only potential source of bacteria in the watershed with a permit to discharge and is therefore allocated the remainder of the acceptable load after 10 percent of the total loading capacity is withheld as a margin of safety. Because MS4 permits regulate the entire watershed area, stormwater runoff is considered a point source for TMDL purposes and this loading is assigned to the wasteload allocation (MS4 WLA). As can be seen in the load duration curve in Figure 4, the allowable load, which is the TMDL, varies with flow. As such, the wasteload allocation associated with stormwater runoff also varies with flow, with the greatest allowance occurring at the highest flows.

## 7. Existing Loads and Needed Reductions

The observed bacteria data in Figure 4 and estimates of existing bacteria loading calculated from this data represent overall bacterial inputs from various sources throughout the watershed and are insufficient for estimating specific reductions needed from each individual point and nonpoint source. TMDL targets are expected to be reached following collective reductions in bacteria loading from the various sources in the watershed. Future monitoring efforts may help estimate bacteria loads from individual sources, aid in identifying localized critical areas, and provide information to guide selection of BMPs. Reduction targets are expected to change over time as implementation activities occur, reductions are achieved, and newer data becomes available. Although load reduction targets may change throughout the course of implementation, the TMDL loading targets established in the load duration curve are not expected to change except in rare instances in which a TMDL may be revised, such as a change in the state's *E. coli* water quality criteria.

Figure 4 presents targeted loads over a range of flows using a load duration curve, as well as estimates of existing loads calculated from bacteria monitoring data. The available bacteria data do not identify contributions from any specific source and represent the existing bacteria loading from all sources within the watershed. Table 2 presents estimated bacteria load reductions needed to achieve the allowable loading allocations for both point and nonpoint sources at various flow values. Estimated load reductions were calculated by subtracting the sum of the wasteload and load allocation values at the median flow value within a specific flow condition from the geometric mean of the observed data exceeding the TMDL curve within the same flow condition (Figure 4). Because the whole body contact recreation category B criterion is a geometric mean, reductions in frequency of exceedances as well as overall loading reductions will help to achieve water quality standards.

As can be seen from Table 2, to meet the TMDL targets the greatest pollutant reductions are needed at moist and high flow conditions. No reductions are necessary when the stream is at low

flow. To achieve the needed reductions, the various contributing point and nonpoint sources mentioned in this document and the TMDL will need to be addressed. This includes the elimination of sanitary sewer overflows, including constructed overflows; maintenance, repair and elimination of onsite wastewater treatment systems; and general stormwater runoff management from MS4 areas. Over time, as implementation activities occur and additional monitoring data becomes available, changes to reductions targets are expected. However, barring changes to water quality criteria, TMDL loading targets, including wasteload and load allocations are expected to remain unchanged.

**Table 2.** Estimated load reductions needed to achieve TMDL loading targets at various flows

<i>Flow Condition</i>	<i>Percent Flow Exceedance</i>	<i>Flow (cfs)</i>	<i>Observed Load Exceeding TMDL Curve (counts/day)</i>	<i>Allowable Load (WLA + LA) (counts/day)</i>	<i>Load Reduction (counts/day)</i>	<i>Percent Reduction (%)</i>
Low Flow	95	0.2	0	7.40E+08	0	0 %
Dry Conditions	75	0.6	9.62E+09	2.67E+09	6.94E+09	72.19 %
Mid-Range	50	1.4	2.04E+10	6.26E+09	1.41E+10	69.30 %
Moist Conditions	25	3.6	1.27E+11	1.65E+10	1.11E+11	87.05 %
High Flows	5	35.1	8.24E+11	1.59E+11	6.65E+11	80.67 %

Data pertaining to specific bacteria load reductions that may be achieved by limiting the volume of stormwater runoff that flows into a water body is limited. It is expected that the use of stormwater BMPs in the watershed designed to reduce the volume and frequency of runoff entering the stream will also help to reduce bacteria loading and assist in meeting the reduction targets. Certain stormwater BMPs have been demonstrated to directly reduce bacteria loading, including bioretention (i.e., rain gardens), media filters and retention ponds. Detention basins and grass swales, on the other hand, have been shown to potentially increase bacteria loading (BMP Database 2010). This implementation plan does not prescribe or prohibit any specific BMPs and BMP selection may be determined by various factors such as efficiency and cost. A summary of calculated BMP efficiencies and estimated costs can be found online from the International Stormwater BMP Database at [www.bmpdatabase.org/BMPPerformance.htm](http://www.bmpdatabase.org/BMPPerformance.htm).

## 8. Implementation of TMDL

TMDLs provide a basis for establishing water quality goals and determining the appropriate and necessary pollution controls for meeting these goals (EPA 2001). However, TMDLs are not self-implementing and are not in and of themselves regulatory documents. Therefore, TMDL implementation is carried out only in part through the department's permitting (point sources) and nonpoint source programs. Additional implementation is typically completed through actions taken by local governments or citizen's groups with an interest in improving water quality in their communities. For Watkins Creek, progress toward meeting water quality standards is expected to be long-term, and TMDL implementation will primarily be a continuation of existing or planned activities, including activities legally required as part of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's consent decree.

The management practices and regulatory requirements outlined in this implementation plan will reflect the sources of bacteria identified in the TMDL, with the goal of meeting the established bacteria TMDL targets. Any known management practices already in place or being planned in the watershed that may help to eliminate the bacteria impairment of Watkins Creek will be discussed in this section. Revisions to the bacteria TMDL, or the development of future Watkins Creek TMDLs, may require revisions to this implementation plan. Any group developing a watershed-based plan for the Watkins Creek watershed is encouraged to address other pollutants and additional known pollutant sources, along with those already identified in the TMDL and this implementation plan. Future watershed based plans or any existing watershed based plans that were completed prior to development of the TMDL should be revised to incorporate the targets identified in the final TMDL, as well as the pollutant reductions identified in this plan.

## **8.1 Point Source Implementation**

Point source reductions are typically implemented with discharge permits administered through the Missouri State Operating Permit program to meet the requirements of Missouri's water quality standards and the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Requirements for land disturbance, industrial and other stormwater permits include establishing BMPs developed in accordance with a department-accepted plan to manage stormwater. In the case of MS4 permits, this includes development and implementation of a stormwater management program plan that addresses the six required minimum control measures, as well as the identification and removal of known sources. For wastewater dischargers, permit terms and conditions established by the department are assumed to be protective of instream water quality. As part of any TMDL implementation plan where point source contributions are likely, the department will, during permit reissuance, conduct an analysis of facility compliance history, sampling results, permit effluent limitations and monitoring requirements. Should the department determine that more protective effluent limitations or permit conditions are necessary, these requirements will be included in the facility permit upon renewal. It is also possible for the permit to be reopened and adjusted between renewal periods.

### **8.1.1 Sanitary Sewer Overflows**

Currently there are no permitted discharges of domestic wastewater in the Watkins Creek watershed. However, constructed sanitary sewer overflows were identified as significant point source contributors of bacteria to Watkins Creek. The Clean Water Act does not permit discharges from sanitary sewer overflows and occurrences of such discharges should be reduced as much as possible or eliminated altogether. The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's consent decree requires the elimination of all constructed sanitary sewer overflows in the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's service area. The complete elimination of constructed sanitary sewer overflows from the Watkins Creek watershed is consistent with the TMDL wasteload allocation of zero to these discharges. This represents a 100 percent reduction of bacteria loading from these sources. Although specific bacteria reductions are unknown and cannot be estimated at this time, it is expected that the removal of constructed sanitary sewer overflows will result in reductions of bacteria loading.

Sanitary sewer overflows occurring due to malfunctions or stormwater inflows could occur in any area where sewer systems are present. Dry weather overflows can be reduced by regular sewer system maintenance including cleaning to eliminate blockages. Educating watershed

residents about keeping fats, grease, and other potential blockage-producing materials out of the sewage system can also reduce dry weather overflows. Wet weather overflows can be reduced by repairing broken and leaking lines that may be allowing excess infiltration and inflow of stormwater. Enlarging or expanding the available sewer system and treatment plant may also be warranted. The consent decree between EPA, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment Foundation, and the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District includes the goal to eliminate these types of overflows and requires various repair and maintenance strategies to reduce occurrences of sanitary sewer overflows. Examples of such strategies mentioned in the consent decree include sewer-pipe lining and replacement, development of an operations and maintenance program, and continued implementation of a fats, oils, and grease program. These consent decree actions to reduce sanitary sewer overflows are consistent with the actions necessary for TMDL implementation and are expected to result in reductions of bacteria loading. It is estimated that over its entire service area, of which the Watkins Creek watershed is a part, controls already implemented by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, as well as those completed as part of its consent decree obligations, will reduce overflows into nearby streams by almost 13 billion gallons per year (EPA 2011d).

### **8.1.2 MS4 Regulated Urban Runoff**

Urban stormwater runoff is another potential contributor of bacteria to Watkins Creek. Since two MS4 permits regulate stormwater in the watershed, urban runoff is considered a point source for TMDL purposes. One of these MS4 permits is held by the Missouri Department of Transportation and the other is held by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and several municipalities as co-permittees. For the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL an aggregate wasteload allocation indicating the allowable bacteria load from the MS4 area was calculated. Although there are differences in how bacteria may originate in a highway system, as opposed to other urban locations where residential areas dominate and contributions associated with pet waste or onsite wastewater treatment systems are more likely, there is not sufficient data to adequately and appropriately disaggregate the MS4 wasteload allocation among the permitted entities at this time.

To guide TMDL implementation through the MS4 permitting process, one approach may be to distribute the total wasteload allocation to each MS4 based on the percentage of their respective areas within the watershed. However, this approach assumes bacteria contributions from both MS4 areas are proportional to their areas, which may not be the case. Future bacteria monitoring may provide more specific information regarding each MS4 area's actual contributions, including specific sources and mechanisms of transport, thereby allowing permits and implementation activities to be modified accordingly. In the Watkins Creek watershed, the regulated area associated with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and co-permittee's MS4 permit accounts for approximately 94.6 percent of the watershed area. The area of the Missouri Department of Transportation's MS4 regulated area accounts for the remaining 5.4 percent of the watershed area.

MS4 permits require implementation of a comprehensive stormwater management program to minimize negative impacts to water quality and the aquatic ecosystem, to monitor and eliminate illicit discharges, and to provide long-term water quality protection. As required by the MS4 permits, a stormwater management plan must address six minimum control measures, which

include public education and outreach, public involvement and participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, post-construction runoff control, and pollution prevention and general housekeeping for municipal operations. The BMPs and programs developed by the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and its co-permittees to meet these permit requirements are expected to result in reductions of bacteria loading from the MS4 regulated area. Additional information on MS4 permit requirements can be found in Missouri's Stormwater Clearinghouse online at [dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/stormwater/sw-local-gov-programs.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/stormwater/sw-local-gov-programs.htm).

The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District has posted their MS4 stormwater management plan on their website at [www.stlmsd.com](http://www.stlmsd.com). Summaries of BMPs for reducing urban stormwater and pollutants in stormwater are also presented on their website. Some examples of structural BMPs mentioned include rain gardens, rain barrels, and detention basins to capture stormwater, as well as overall reductions of impervious surfaces. Nonstructural BMPs, such as picking up pet wastes and maintaining longer lawns are also mentioned. The purpose of these practices is to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff from the MS4 area that directly enters streams and, consequently, reduce the potential for erosion resulting from runoff conditions. This reduction in overall runoff and erosion is expected to result in reduced bacteria loading during flow conditions influenced by storm events. The Missouri Department of Transportation also makes their MS4 stormwater management plan available online at [www.modot.org/stormwater/](http://www.modot.org/stormwater/). In addition to stormwater runoff reductions, this plan provides information regarding BMPs associated with erosion control and sediment containment, which can reduce the likelihood of bacteria contaminated sediment from entering a stream via runoff. Additionally, the plan includes goals of restoring and revegetating riparian areas that the agency's activities may have disturbed. Although these activities do not target *E. coli* directly, reductions in runoff and sediment entering Watkins Creek is expected to result in reductions of bacteria loading.

Although MS4 permits regulate stormwater runoff in the watershed, voluntary implementation stormwater BMPs by private citizens living or operating businesses within the Watkins Creek watershed will also aid in achieving TMDL goals and meeting estimated load reductions. For this reason, in addition to education efforts required as part of MS4 permitting, local governments may want to consider developing incentive programs for retrofitting existing development, encourage low-impact development for new construction projects, or possibly enact stormwater control regulations to successfully meet TMDL targets.

## **8.2 Nonpoint Sources Implementation**

The department does not regulate nonpoint sources and nonpoint source loading is typically reduced using BMPs that may be implemented to address and improve land use practices that may contribute bacteria to the impaired water bodies. Since the entire watershed falls within an MS4 regulated area, most runoff sources of bacteria that are traditionally thought of as nonpoint sources are addressed by the TMDL as point sources. For implementation activities associated with point sources, refer to Section 8.1 of this document. However, one potential nonpoint source of bacteria identified in the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL is onsite wastewater treatment systems.

Failing onsite wastewater treatment systems may be sources of bacteria to nearby waterways. Therefore, educating homeowners about proper septic system maintenance, and repairing or replacing failing systems when necessary, may aid in reducing bacteria loading to Watkins Creek. Education may be completed as part of the MS4 stormwater management plan, through the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District to meet consent decree obligations, by local governments, local watershed groups, or university extension offices. The EPA maintains various guidance documents and resources pertaining to onsite systems online at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic/homeowner-resources.cfm> including a “Homeowner’s Guide to Septic Systems.” Similarly, the East-West Gateway Council of Governments has developed a septic system maintenance guide for the Lower Meramec Watershed. Although not developed specifically for the region where the Watkins Creek watershed is located, the guide, available online at [www.ewgateway.org/pdf/files/library/wrc/septictankbrochure.pdf](http://www.ewgateway.org/pdf/files/library/wrc/septictankbrochure.pdf), does provide useful septic system information that is relevant throughout St. Louis County.

Enforcement of local ordinances requiring a sewer connection if a sewer system is within 200 feet of a home will also aid in implementation of the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL (see Section 5.2.1). Further elimination of onsite systems and connection to the existing sewerage system should be explored by homeowners and local governments. Elimination of some onsite systems by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District is a condition specified in their consent decree and is consistent with the implementation of the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL. Although this supplemental environmental project is limited in its scope and funding, any eliminations of onsite wastewater treatment systems in the Watkins Creek watershed are expected to result in reductions of bacteria loading.<sup>14</sup>

## 9. Critical Areas and Recommended Actions

This implementation plan identifies critical areas using aerial imagery and geographic information system, or GIS, analyses to help target funding and work efforts. However, because these analyses are based on gross watershed characteristics, local government entities, watershed groups, and others using this implementation guidance should attempt to identify additional critical areas at a more refined scale. Local level identification of critical areas is crucial for proper selection and installation of BMPs.

Constructed sanitary sewer overflows are significant, potential contributors of bacteria to Watkins Creek during periods of flow influenced by stormwater runoff. All areas directly impacted by constructed sanitary sewer overflows are critical areas needing targeted action to meet the TMDL goals. Elimination of these constructed overflows should provide water quality improvements immediately downstream from these points and should decrease the overall bacteria loading into Watkins Creek during wet weather events. In the Watkins Creek watershed, there are four constructed sanitary sewer overflows, all located within the municipality of Spanish Lake (Figure 1). Because sanitary sewer overflows are unauthorized and unpermitted, the TMDL wasteload allocation for these sources is zero, indicating the need for a 100 percent

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<sup>14</sup> Any references to implementation of a supplemental environmental project shall include the following reference: “This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action, *United States of America and the State of Missouri, and Missouri Coalition for the Environment Foundation v. Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District*, No. 4:07-CV-1120-CEJ, taken on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State, and the Coalition under the Clean Water Act” (John R. Lodderhose, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, email communication, Oct. 24, 2012).

reduction in bacteria loading from these sources. Elimination of constructed sanitary sewer overflows within the Watkins Creek watershed is addressed by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's consent decree, and should be conducted according to the schedule and requirements specified in that document.

In addition to constructed sanitary sewer overflows, the consent decree also addresses dry and wet weather overflows resulting from accidental discharges. These unauthorized discharges may occur at any point in the watershed serviced by a sewerage system, thereby making the entire service area the critical area for overall sanitary sewer overflow reduction. In general, dry weather sewer overflows can be reduced by regular sewer system maintenance, such as routine cleaning to eliminate blockages, and by sewer customers reducing their inputs of blockage-causing substances. The consent decree specifies various repair and maintenance strategies needed to reduce overflows and requires an educational component pertaining specifically to the reduction of inputs of fats, oils and grease from sewer system customers. Wet weather sewer overflows can be reduced by repairing broken and leaking lines that may be allowing excess infiltration and inflow of stormwater, which may overwhelm the sewer system. Enlargement or expansion of the available sewer system or treatment plant may also be warranted.

Stormwater is another potential pathway for bacteria to enter a water body. Bacteria entering the stream network through urban stormwater runoff can be reduced through a number of practices, but these practices should be consistent with the requirements of MS4 permits and department-accepted stormwater management plans developed to meet those requirements. MS4 regulated entities are free to choose the appropriate BMPs that meet the individual local governments' budgets, timeframes, and needs, and the BMPs should be incorporated into the permittee's stormwater management plan. Critical areas for reducing stormwater runoff in the Watkins Creek watershed are identified as being primarily impervious or urban (Figure 2). The riparian corridor of Watkins Creek and its tributaries may need to be specifically targeted, especially in residential areas where wastes from pets or stabled animals could contaminate runoff flowing directly to the stream.

As noted earlier, onsite wastewater treatment systems have been identified as a nonpoint source identified in the watershed that may be contributing bacteria loading to Watkins Creek. Critical areas for onsite wastewater treatment systems are likely to be found in the unincorporated portions of the county and other areas not serviced by a sewerage system. The St. Louis County assessor's office and the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District can provide additional information to help target the specific locations of unsewered properties. Surveying of residents in the watershed is another recommended tool to better estimate number, and identify the locations, of onsite systems. Education efforts related to proper septic system maintenance and repair can then be targeted to residents known to have onsite wastewater systems or who are living in unsewered areas. Since the department does not regulate nonpoint sources, a voluntary, site-specific approach to implementation may be used, as well as possible enforcement of any county or local ordinances pertaining to onsite wastewater systems. Additional information regarding specific regulations of onsite wastewater treatment systems in St. Louis County can be obtained from both the St. Louis County Public Works Department at 314-615-5184, and the St. Louis County Health Department, at 314-615-0600.



## 10. Measurable Goals, Timeline and Milestones

The ultimate goal of this TMDL implementation plan is to serve as a guide to local professionals, watershed managers, and citizens aiming to reduce bacteria concentrations in Watkins Creek to a level that will support the whole body contact recreation category B designated use. Reaching this goal would require reductions in *E. coli* loading resulting in measurements at or below the recreational season geometric mean criterion of 206 counts/100mL. Additionally, the department's current 303(d) listing methodology document states that a water body is judged to be impaired by bacteria if *E. coli* counts exceed the geometric mean in any of the last three years for which adequate data is available. In this case, adequate data is at least five samples per year taken during the recreational season. Assessment of Watkins Creek for compliance with state water quality standards will be conducted by the department as required by the Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d). Recent water quality data from the Watkins Creek watershed was collected by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and volunteers trained in Cooperative Stream Investigation as part of the department's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. In addition to data collected by these groups, the department will also routinely examine water quality data collected by other local, state and federal entities in order to assess the effectiveness of TMDL implementation. These entities may include the USGS, EPA, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and county health departments. In addition, certain quality-assured data collected by universities, municipalities, private companies and other volunteer groups may potentially be considered for monitoring water quality following TMDL implementation. Individuals or groups interested in developing monitoring plans are encouraged to contact the department for guidance. Department consultation may help identify current monitoring activities and potential collaborative opportunities as well as provide approved sampling and analytical methodologies.

Specific measurable goals for permitted facilities, local governments or watershed groups working to implement the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL should focus on maximizing BMP effectiveness and achieving pollutant reductions. In the case of bacteria, these goals will likely include overall stormwater runoff reduction and a reduction in the frequency of *E. coli* measurements exceeding the TMDL loading capacity at flows above low flow. Timelines and interim milestones may vary depending upon the means of implementation, as well as upon the strategies used to address individual point or nonpoint sources. Many of the necessary implementation activities will be the result of projects completed to meet the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's consent decree as well as those completed to meet MS4 permit requirements. The timelines established by these legal requirements will also act as the timelines for TMDL implementation.

### 10.1 Point Sources - Goals and Timeline

Point source implementation goals and timelines are typically dictated by conditions specified in permits issued under the department's Missouri State Operating Permit program to meet federal NPDES requirements. After withholding 10 percent of the total acceptable load as a margin of safety, the TMDL allocated the remainder of the available loading capacity to the MS4 wasteload allocation. For this reason, any schedules or deadlines specified as conditions in the Missouri Department of Transportation and Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District MS4 permits and their corresponding stormwater management plans, will serve as timelines to guide TMDL implementation for these sources. Current MS4 stormwater management plans were developed

prior to the completion of the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL. Therefore, it is expected that subsequent revisions to these plans will specifically incorporate the goals of both the TMDL and this implementation plan. The current general small MS4 permit expired on June 12, 2013. Upon renewal, facilities will need to revise their stormwater management plan. Examples of goals and timelines from the current Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's stormwater management plan are summarized in Table 3. A similar schedule does not appear in the Department of Transportation's plan.

In addition to the permits issued by the department, implementation efforts addressing the sanitary sewer system in the watershed will be conducted in accordance to the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's consent decree. The consent decree requires the elimination of all constructed sanitary sewer overflows in the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's service area, which includes the Watkins Creek watershed, and provides a specific timeline for such eliminations. In accordance with the consent decree, constructed sanitary sewer overflows will be scheduled for elimination by no later than 2033 with 85 percent of the overflow outfalls to be eliminated by 2023. The order of the eliminations will be based on the potential for human health and environmental risks, frequency of overflow, estimated volumes, and technical engineering judgment. Eliminations of constructed overflows in the Watkins Creek watershed are included in the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's consent decree available online at [www.epa.gov/region07/enforcement\\_compliance/MSD\\_consent\\_decree\\_cwa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region07/enforcement_compliance/MSD_consent_decree_cwa.htm).

**Table 3.** Summarized goals and timelines in the 2008 – 2013 Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's MS4 stormwater management plan

<i>Permit Year</i>	<i>Goal</i>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committees established;</li> <li>• Develop training for erosion control BMPs;</li> <li>• Develop BMP education materials;</li> <li>• Distribute BMP guidelines;</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radio public service announcement developed and distributed;</li> <li>• Provide BMP training; Distribute education materials;</li> <li>• Develop list of pet waste problem areas;</li> <li>• Post pet waste signs in parks;</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute educational materials;</li> <li>• Work group to develop septic system strategic plan;</li> <li>• List ordinances and BMPs frequently in noncompliance and target these areas for education; Develop BMP toolbox/reference library;</li> <li>• Implement actions to address pet waste;</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop strategic plan for addressing septic systems;</li> <li>• Distribute educational information;</li> <li>• Adopt stormwater ordinances and codes;</li> <li>• Implement actions to address pet waste;</li> </ul>

5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute educational materials;</li> <li>• Conduct survey to evaluate public awareness and program effectiveness;</li> <li>• Report outcomes and recommendations;</li> <li>• Training of municipal staff for stormwater pollution prevention plan compliance and compliance inspection;</li> <li>• Complete implementation actions to address pet waste.</li> </ul>
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Source: [www.stlmsd.com](http://www.stlmsd.com)

## 10.2 Nonpoint Sources – Goals and Timeline

Although urban runoff is addressed as a point source for TMDL purposes, implementation activities to reduce stormwater runoff that are beyond the required elements of an MS4 permit may be considered nonpoint sources for funding purposes. A partnership of various groups in the Watkins Creek watershed recently developed a watershed-based plan, titled *Watkins Creek Watershed Management Plan*. This plan was partially funded by the department's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Program. Since much of the Watkins Creek watershed is private land, voluntary implementation activities completed by watershed groups, home or business owners will work in concert with the implementation activities required by permitted entities in the watershed.

The final Watkins Creek watershed plan includes a schedule for implementing nonpoint source management measures and a description of interim measurable milestones in accordance with EPA guidance, including the nine elements for developing a successful watershed plan. Because funding for implementation was not secured at the time the plan was drafted, the timeline for implementing management measures is somewhat general. Estimated goals and timelines can be found in the Watkins Creek watershed plan. Table 4 summarizes the schedule from the plan for practices likely to aid in implementation of the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL. Where appropriate, the watershed plan should be updated and revised to consider the targets, critical areas, load reductions, and implementation strategies identified in the approved Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL and this implementation plan. The watershed management plan is available from the department's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Unit by calling 800-361-4827 or 573-751-1300 or by emailing [nonpointsource@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:nonpointsource@dnr.mo.gov).

**Table 4.** BMP implementation schedule from the Watkins Creek Watershed Management Plan.

<b>Management Measure</b>	<b>Management Objective</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Bioretention	Incentives to retrofit areas with bioretention systems	Years 1 - 5
Wetland Detention	Incentives to convert detention and retention basins to wetland detention basins	Years 1 - 5
Sand Filter/Infiltration Basins	Incentives to retrofit areas with Sand filter/infiltration basins	Years 1 - 5
Septic Systems 1	Incentives for sanitary sewer connection	Years 1 - 5
Septic Systems 2	Survey watershed for existing systems	Year 1 then ongoing
Septic Systems 3	Education to homeowners	Year 1 then ongoing

Vegetative Strips 1	Incentives for property owners to install vegetative strips along streams and waterways	Years 1 - 5
Vegetative Strips 2	Assistance in maintaining existing riparian buffers	Year 2 then ongoing
Porous Pavement	Incentives for property owners to retrofit parking areas with porous pavement	Years 1 -10
Pet Waste Control 1	Education to pet owners	Year 1 then ongoing
Pet Waste Control 2	Develop and implement pet waste elimination program	Year 2 then ongoing
Yard Waste Disposal 1	Education to land owners	Year 1 then ongoing
Yard Waste Disposal 2	Stream clean up and identification of dumping	Year 2 then ongoing
Street Sweeping	Promote activity	Year 1 - 10 then ongoing

Source: Watkins Creek Watershed Management Plan, Chapter 7.

## 11. Targeted Participants and Implementation Roles

Successful implementation of the Watkins Creek TMDL will require the participation and cooperation of various organizations, with roles ranging from technical support to actual on-the-ground implementation of BMPs. Groups that may potentially be involved in the TMDL implementation process are listed below, along with descriptions of their possible roles. The TMDL implementation plan is not a regulatory document and this list is not intended to compel participation from any of these organizations, nor is it intended to exclude others not listed here who may be interested in participating.

- Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
  - Regulated through small MS4 permit; must meet requirements of permit, including the implementation of strategies outlined in the MS4 stormwater management plan.
  - Meet requirements outlined in consent decree (EPA 2011).
- Three MS4 co-permittees located in the Watkins Creek watershed
  - Regulated through small MS4 permit; must meet requirements of permit, including the implementation of strategies outlined in the stormwater management plan.
  - Enforcement of any local ordinance concerning urban runoff, pet waste, low impact development, livestock, and onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- Missouri Department of Transportation
  - Regulated through small MS4 permit; must meet requirements of permit, including the implementation of strategies outlined in the stormwater management plan.
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
  - Monitor compliance and enforce regulations associated with MS4 permit and Missouri clean water law.

- Provide technical assistance and support to regulated entities and watershed groups where appropriate.
  - Responsible for water quality assessment for Clean Water Act sections 305(b) and 303(d) purposes.
  - Ensure that requirements of permits issued in watershed are consistent with the wasteload allocations and conditions specified in the TMDL.
  - Serve as a potential source of financial assistance for watershed plan development and BMP implementation through Section 319 or 604(b) grants.
- University of Missouri Extension
  - Technical assistance with nonpoint source and watershed management issues.
- Missouri Department of Conservation
  - Technical assistance with stream and watershed management issues.
- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
  - Technical assistance and regulatory authority regarding onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- St. Louis County Health Department
  - Technical assistance and regulatory authority regarding onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- St. Louis County Public Works
  - Technical assistance regarding onsite wastewater treatment systems.
- Watkins Creek watershed group (e.g., Greenway Network, Inc.)
  - Development/revision of nine-element watershed based plan that incorporates TMDL goals and considers the guidance provided in this implementation plan.
  - Identify critical areas at a local level.
  - Install BMPs.
  - Public education.
  - Evaluate watershed plan's effectiveness.
- General public within the Watkins Creek watershed
  - Voluntary lifestyle changes to meet implementation plan goals (e.g., pet waste cleanup, septic system maintenance, water conservation, etc.).
  - Voluntary installation of BMPs on private lands, residences and businesses.

## **12. Potential Funding Sources**

A variety of grants and loans may be available to assist watershed stakeholders with developing and implementing watershed plans, controls, and practices to meet the load reductions identified in this implementation plan. The most commonly used sources of funding are state revolving fund low-interest loans and Section 319 grants. Low-interest loans from state revolving funds may be available to assist with expanding the available sewerage system to currently unsewered homes in the watershed, as well as upgrading or expanding the municipal wastewater treatment plant that receives municipal wastewater from the Watkins Creek watershed. Grant money from the department's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Program may be available for implementing nonpoint source controls in the watershed. In some cases, nonpoint sources for Section 319 purposes may differ from those outlined in the TMDL. A TMDL may determine that no reductions of nonpoint sources are necessary; however, the water body could still be eligible for incremental 319 funding. For example, urban runoff regulated by an MS4 permit is

considered a point source for TMDL purposes, but in some instances can be considered a nonpoint source for Section 319 purposes.

Section 319 grant money can support a wide variety of activities including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and monitoring to assess BMP effectiveness. One example, is the June 23, 2011 grant that the department awarded to the Greenway Network Inc. The department awarded \$19,175 to develop the watershed-based plan for the Watkins Creek watershed. The development of the Watkins Creek watershed plan was a collaborative effort, which included the Confluence Project, the Missouri American Water Company, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council. Because this plan was developed prior to the completion of the TMDL, revisions and updates will be necessary once final approval of the TMDL from EPA is received.

Other past section 319 grant funded projects intended to help improve water quality in Watkins Creek include mini-grants to fund a symposium sponsored by the St. Louis Earth Day organization in 2005 and again in 2012; the establishment of an advisory group for watershed management planning sponsored by RegionWise of St. Louis University in 2007; middle and high school educator training on water quality issues sponsored by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District in 2009; and BMP demonstration projects in the Hazelwood School District sponsored by RegionWise of St. Louis University in 2010.

In addition to the previously identified sources of funding, the EPA maintains the Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection, which is a searchable database of financial assistance sources. The link to this online catalog as well as other federal funding sources is provided in Table 5.

**Table 5.** Online resources for potential funding sources

<i><b>Name</b></i>	<i><b>URL</b></i>	<i><b>Description</b></i>
Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection	<a href="https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/watershedfunding/f?p=fedfund:1">https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/watershedfunding/f?p=fedfund:1</a>	Searchable data of financial assistant sources for watershed protection
Nonpoint Source – Related Funding Opportunities	<a href="http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/funding.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/funding.cfm</a>	List of federal websites with information regarding funding opportunities
Water: Grants & Funding	<a href="http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/">http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/</a>	EPA website providing information on available grants.
Watershed Funding	<a href="http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/owow/funding.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/owow/funding.cfm</a>	Funding resources and tools from EPA

Environmental Education Grants	<a href="http://www2.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants">http://www2.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants</a>	Financial support for environmental education projects
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning Assistance to States	<a href="http://www2.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/pppmd_assistance_states.asp">http://www2.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/pppmd_assistance_states.asp</a>	Financial support to states and local governments for developing plans to protect land and water resources
Targeted Watershed Grants Program	<a href="http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/twg/initiative_index.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/twg/initiative_index.cfm</a>	EPA grant to increase citizen stewardship of urban waterways.
Environmental Justice Grants	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/index.html">http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/index.html</a>	Grant resources for Environmental Justice communities

### 13. Public Participation – Availability for Comment

The TMDL process works best when local people get together to understand and identify problems in their watershed. They can help develop the most effective solution for reducing water pollution. Without public understanding and support for TMDLs, implementation plans for impaired waters will not succeed.

A 90-day public notice and comment period for the Watkins Creek TMDL implementation plan was held from May 23, 2014 to Aug. 21, 2014. Groups that directly received the public notice announcement include the Missouri Clean Water Commission, the Missouri Water Quality Coordinating Committee, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Transportation, the St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District, St. Louis County Department of Health, St. Louis County Public Works, the University of Missouri Extension, the Greenway Network Inc., the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, the St. Louis County Council, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, developers of the Watkins Creek watershed management plan, Stream Team volunteers living in or near the watershed, the Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition, any affected permitted entities, the state legislators representing areas within the watershed and any other individual or group who submitted comments during the first public comment period of the TMDL in 2012. In addition, this implementation plan was made available on the department's website at [dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/tmdl/1708-watkins-cr-record.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/tmdl/1708-watkins-cr-record.htm), and is available to anyone with access to the Internet. Any comments received and the department's responses to those comments are maintained on file with the department and are to be posted on this webpage.

### 14. Administrative Record and Supporting Documentation

An administrative record for the Watkins Creek TMDL and this implementation plan has been assembled and is on file with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The administrative record includes this implementation plan, the Watkins Creek bacteria TMDL, and any studies, data and calculations on which the TMDL is based. This information is available upon request to the department at [dnr.mo.gov/sunshine-form.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/sunshine-form.htm). Any request for information will be processed



in accordance with Missouri's Sunshine Law (Chapter 610, RSMO) and the department's administrative policies and procedures governing Sunshine Law requests. For more information on open record/Sunshine requests, please consult the department's website at [dnr.mo.gov/sunshinerequests.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/sunshinerequests.htm).

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## APPENDIX A: Addressing the nine elements of a successful watershed plan

Additional detail may be necessary when developing a watershed based plan funded through grants from the department's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Program. See

[http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook\\_index.cfm#contents](http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm#contents) for additional 319 requirements.

Element	Element Description	Location in Plan	Level of Detail Given in Plan
<i>a</i>	Identification of causes and sources	Section 5. TMDL Source Assessment Summary Section 5.2 for NPS	Stormwater discussed mainly as point source (MS4). Onsite systems as NPS. Failure rates given. Estimates of number of nonsewered parcels given.
<i>b</i>	Estimate of load reductions expected from described management measures	Section 7. Existing Loads and Needed Reductions	Gives bacteria reductions needed to meet TMDL targets for both point and NPS. Brief mention of BMPs shown to reduce bacteria. Reference to BMP efficiencies at bmpdatabase.org. No specific reductions per BMP or expected from groups of BMPs given.
<i>c</i>	Description of measures needed to achieve load reductions and description of critical areas.	Section 7 (see element b) Section 9. Critical Areas and Recommended Actions	For Section 7 see element b.  Critical areas defined in a broad sense based on GIS and land use data. Recommended management measures discussed briefly and generally.
<i>d</i>	Estimate of technical/financial assistance, costs, and authorities	Section 7. Existing Loads and Needed Reductions Section 11. Targeted Participants Section 12. Potential Funding Sources	No specifics on BMPs to select, where to place, or number to install, so no costs calculated.  Section 7 gives link to BMP Database for costs. Section 11 lists potential participants and their possible role in TMDL implementation. Section 12 lists potential funding sources.
<i>e</i>	Information/Education component	Section 8 Point Source Implementation Section 9. Critical areas and Recommended Actions Section 11 Targeted Participants	Section 8.1 discusses education as a required component of MS4 permits and 8.2 gives links to guidance documents. Section 9 does not give a specific education/information program, but identifies education as a necessary component. Section 11 lists participants who can aid in education.
<i>f</i>	Schedule for implementing management measures.	Section 10. Measurable Goals, Timeline and Milestones	Consent decree, permitting, and stormwater management plan schedules given. WMP schedule reproduced as a table.
<i>g</i>	Interim measurable milestones	Section 10. Measurable Goals, Timeline and Milestones	See elements f and h
<i>h</i>	Criteria to determine if loading reductions are being achieved or progress made. Criteria to determine if plan needs to be revised.	Section 10. Measurable Goals, Timeline and Milestones	Section 10 notes ultimate goal of Watkins to meet WQS. Summarizes department assessment procedure.  Section 10.2 refers back to WMP.
<i>i</i>	Monitoring component to evaluate effectiveness of implementation efforts over time.	Section 10. Measurable Goals, Timeline and Milestones	No specific monitoring plan given. Summarizes department assessment procedure. Notes existing data collectors in watershed and potential data contributors.